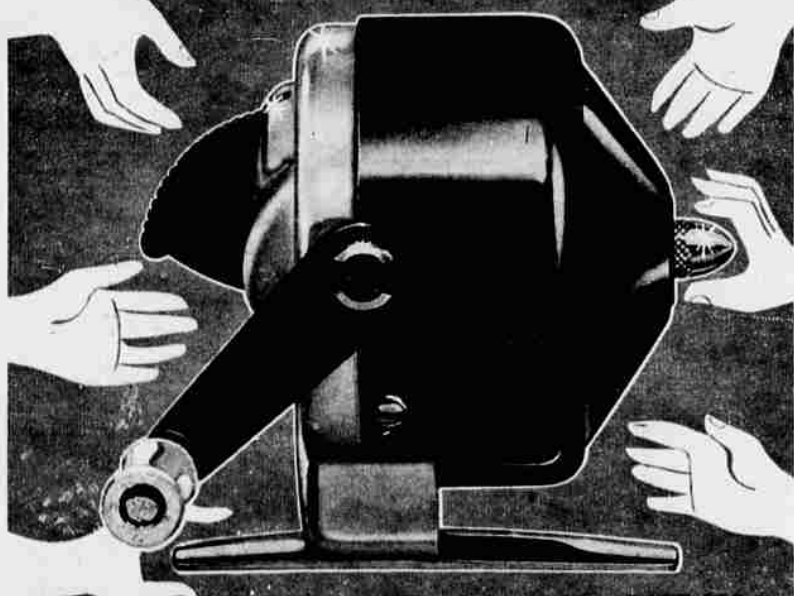


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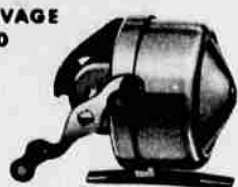
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## I WAS JUST THINKING ...

"THIS IS THE DEN," said the owner of the new house. She had a right to the pride in her voice. It was a beautiful room, paneled in mahogany, ornamented with sailing ships, the window offering a magnificent view of distant hills.

And no room anywhere for a single book. Not one.

Nor was there a bookcase in the house. She is my friend. She is good, intelligent, and industrious. She doesn't read. She says she hasn't time.

Perhaps the new den is meant as the constant study of the landscape and it is a rich reward. I would love such a house with such a room.

But my house would have bookcases filled with volumes chosen not for the brilliance of their bindings, as my decorator friend recommends, but for their content.

Here in my old shelves is the great and wonderful Bible produced with loving care by those who bring you this Sunday magazine. And there are Shakespeare and Walt Whitman and Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg and James Hearst.

And here is the enchantment of Sherlock Holmes and as many of the works of James Thurber as I can accumulate and Robert Benchley and all the anthologies and collections of great short stories I am able to acquire.

And a sampling of Russian and French and the quaint world of Dickens and Jane Austen and Trollope.

And great newspaper reporting and the whimsy of Helen Hokinson, a dictionary, a thesaurus, books of reference. And Graham Greene and Moravia and J. P. Marquand and Joseph Conrad, Du Maurier and Christopher Fry and A. A. Milne and James Barrie. John Hersey, Ernest Hemingway, and William Faulkner.

Life can be loved and the battle won without owning books. No rabid reader has the right to sit in judgment on those for whom reading is neither pleasure nor profit.

But to those who love books, the opening of the pages is an adventure. And when, in completion, a book loses the suspense of itself, it remains as a friend and companion.

A room needs a window, but a room filled with books brings all the world into view.

*Patty Johnson*



Suzanne Shuler

COVER

When a youthful band of redskins is preparing to go on the war-path, it's certainly handy to have a dad who's an artist. Painting by Casey Jones.

## Family Weekly

May 3, 1959

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